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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

September 4, 1980

The Honorable Paul Tsongas  
342 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Stephen P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exception(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Declassify on Reason

Dear Senator Tsongas:

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping to obtain the release of two Argentine physicists who are among those who have disappeared and are thought to be detained by the Argentine Government. In particular, we would be very grateful if you would write the State Department and the Argentine Ambassador on their behalf. Both of these physicists have been offered positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The first of these is Federico Eduardo Alvarez Rojas who, together with his wife, Hilda Graciela Leikis de Alvarez Rojas, a computer scientist, was forcibly removed from his home on October 1, 1976, leaving behind three unattended children 3, 9 and 12 years old. The family have taken all possible legal proceedings to locate the couple without success. Dr. Rojas was working at the National Commission of Atomic Energy before his disappearance and was in charge of the X-Ray Diffraction Laboratory. The Francis Bitter National Magnet Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has offered Dr. Rojas a position of Visiting Research Scientist, and, consequently, the support necessary for the Rojas family to emigrate does exist.

The second of these physicists is Daniel Eduardo Bendersky, who was arrested on September 16, 1978. Again, his family exhausted all avenues of inquiry without success. Mr. Bendersky was a graduate student in nuclear physics at the College of Exact Sciences, University of Buenos Aires, up to the time of his disappearance. He was considered a very promising scientist by his professors and has therefore been admitted to the physics graduate program at M.I.T. and offered full financial support, again making his emigration possible.

The Honorable Paul Tsongas

- 2 -

September 4, 1980

We urgently request your intervention for humanitarian reasons, and for the benefit of the scientific endeavor to which both can contribute significantly.

Sincerely yours,

*Francis E. Low*

Francis E. Low

*Herman Feshbach*

Herman Feshbach  
Head, Department of Physics

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